

CLAIMS

[0044] What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
 - a hardware component; and
 - a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in a chip.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a receiver of said chip.
3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a transmitter of said chip.
4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said hardware comprises:
 - at least one digital to analog converter;
 - at least one comparator able to receive output of said converter;
 - at least one register able to be read by said firmware; and
 - at least one register able to be written to by said firmware.
5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said firmware comprises:
 - an approximator; and
 - a fine tuner able to fine tune the approximation of said approximator.
6. A method comprising
 - approximating a first noise level in an individual chip; and
 - fine tuning said first noise level to produce a second noise level.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said approximating comprises:
 - determining said first noise level according to a hardware result.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein said fine tuning comprises:
- determining said second noise level according to a hardware result.
9. A method according to claim 6, wherein said approximating comprises:
- reading from a noise event counter register; and
 - writing to a noise floor register.
10. A method according to claim 6, wherein said fine tuning comprises:
- reading from a noise register; and
 - writing to a noise floor register.
11. A method comprising:
- using a firmware solution to compensate for a hardware problem in a chip of a noise level with a high standard deviation.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said firmware solution is able to reduce energy consumption of a chip.
13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said firmware solution is able to reduce a space requirement of a hardware solution.
14. A system comprising:
- a card; and
 - a chip attached to said card, said chip comprising:
 - a hardware component; and
 - a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in said chip.
15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a receiver of said chip.

16.A system according to claim 14, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a transmitter of said chip.

17.A home phone networking system comprising:

two or more computers each having a chip comprising:

a hardware component; and

a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in said chip.

18.A system according to claim 17, further comprising:

one or more peripheral devices coupled to at least one of said computers.